

Evidentiary document # 5340.

FORM OF STATEMENT.

Summary of examination of SAM BO GYI GYAW, son of SAM BA GYAW.  
Occupation: Student.  
Address: TAUNGTHUGON, INSEIN.

SAM BO GYI GYAW, duly sworn/affirmed, states:-

I am 22 years of age, of Karen nationality, and born at THARRAWADDY. My permanent home is at INSEIN. I am at present living at INSEIN.

I was living in the Karen quarter just outside the A.B.M. compound THARRAWADDY. The house in which I was living overlooked this compound. One day, in the early or middle part of May, just as it was growing dark about 5 or 6 p.m., I heard some shots fired from within the compound. On hearing this, I went to an upstairs window where I saw seven persons in the custody of about six Japanese who were wearing raincoats. The prisoners were being blindfolded with strips torn from a blanket. I could not recognise any of the prisoners as they were about 150 yards away.

The first prisoner I saw being executed by a trench was shot at with a pistol at close range, several shots being fired. Two more prisoners were brought by the trench and they were shot at by some Japs who were under a big tree, these Japs rested their rifles on the tree roots and fired at the prisoners. This was repeated with the remaining prisoners.

After the execution was over the Japs returned to their quarters in the compound. These Japs were Kempei Tai personnel and were the last Japanese troops in THARRAWADDY. I do not know any of their names except one, whose name was S/Pte SAITO, but he did not belong to the Kempei Tai. I do not know the unit from which he came.

The majority of the civilians, including myself, left THARRAWADDY after this incident. When I came back to THARRAWADDY, I met some people who were exhuming the bodies; U TIN's wife identified her husband's body, and he was cremated just near the trench. There was also another trench nearby which contained the body of U TO HLA WIN. I saw his body, and the head was smashed and the skull appeared to be broken.

(Signed) SAM BO GYI GYAW.

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Interpreter

I certify that I duly translated the above summary to the witness in his own language prior to his signature which appears above.

(Signed) HLA NYUNT  
Interpreter.

Sworn/affirmed before me H. HARRUP (signature); Rank: Captain.  
Description: Investigator, 17 War Crimes Investigation Team at  
RANGOON on the 31st day of May 1946.

An officer detailed to examine the above by the Commander-in-Chief,  
Allied Land Forces, South East Asia.

(Authority:- ALFSEA War Crimes Instruction No. 1, para. 7.)

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the Sworn Statement made  
by SAW BO GYI GYAN, Student, TAUNGTHUGON, INSEIN, before Captain  
H. HARRUP, Investigator, 17 War Crimes Investigation Team on 31st May  
1946.

MEG/-  
Tel: Central 174.

(Signed) J.S.F. BURNETT, Lt.Col.  
O.C. 17 War Crimes Investigation Team.  
(Lt.Col. J.S.F.A.F. BURNETT, DSO, MC)